

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1918.

"Moorside"

LITTLE HULTON.

April 1919.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Little Hulton Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my twenty second Annual report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Little Hulton Urban District for the year 1918.

Area of District Statute Acres.	1699
Total population of all ages (last census)	8133
Estimate of Civilian population received from Somerset House for "death-rate"	7669
Estimate of Civilian population received etc. for "Birth-rate"	8593
Number of inhabited houses.	1739
Average number of persons per house calculated from Somerset House birth-rate returns.	4.9

BIRTHS registered during the year were 153 (75 males 78 females) twentyone less than last year, and equal to a rate of 17.8 per 1000 of the population. Four of the births were illegitimate.

DEATHS of "Civilians only" numbered 118 (58 males 60 females) an increase of seventeen on last year and equivalent to a rate of 15.3 per 1000.

INCREMENT OF LIFE viz., the excess of births and deaths was 35 (17 males 18 females) as against 73 (32 males 41 females) in 1917.

CAUSES OF DEATH - "Enteric Fever" 6 "Measles" 1 "Whooping Cough" 1 "Influenza" 18 "Pulmonary Tuberculosis" 7 "Other Tuberculous Diseases" 4 "Cancer" 12 "Meningitis" 2 "Cardiac Diseases" 5 "Bronchitis" 14 "Pneumonia" 6 "Other Respiratory Diseases" 2 "Appendicitis" 1 "Nephritis" 4 "Congenital Debility" 5 "Accidental" 8 "Other Defined Diseases" 22 - Total 118.

INFANT MORTALITY - The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 15 (6 males 9 females) two less than last year, and equal to a rate of 98 per 1000 births a marked decrease in the average for the past ten years, which was 108.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY. - The seven principal diseases, viz., "Small pox" "Scarlet Fever" "Measles" "Whooping Cough" "Enteric Fever" "Diphtheria" and "Diarrhoeal Diseases" accounted for eight deaths (5 males 3 females) six being due to Enteric Fever, one to Measles and one to whooping cough, corresponding to a rate of 1.04 as against 1.17 in 1917 - a decrease of 0.61 in the past ten years average rate, which was 1.65.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES. - The three main diseases viz., "Bronchitis" "Pneumonia" & "Pleurisy" caused twenty two deaths, (11 males 11 females) six more than last year and equal to a rate of 2.8 per 1000.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. - Fifty nine cases were notified as against two hundred and ninety-five last year. As in the past years I have visited each case and the sanitary defects etc., observed have been brought before your notice. In addition to the Bolton Borough Fever Hospital, arrangements have now been made with the Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the isolation of your infectious cases and also of Small-pox in their hospitals at Astley.

ERYSIPELAS. - Seven cases were notified, two more than last year.

SCARLET FEVER. - Five cases were notified, eight less than last year. All were of a mild type of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA and MEMBRANOUS CROUP. - Two cases were notified as against five last year, one, an adult, resident in Spring Gardens was removed to the Leigh Joint Fever Hospital, Astley. Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied by you free.

ENTERIC FEVER. - Seven cases were notified, the same number as in the previous year, six proving fatal. Two were residents in Hilton Lane, two in Clegg's Lane one in Tynesbank, one in Brook Street and one in Johnson Street.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. - Eleven cases were notified, the same number as last year, and four had Sanatorium treatment. Seven deaths were recorded, equal to a rate of 0.91 per 1000 of the population, a decrease of 0.09 on the last ten years average.

The case of the advanced Consumptive will I trust be one of the first schemes adopted by the proposed Ministry of Health, These being the main centre from which Tuberculosis is spread & practically at present no hospital accommodation for them.

I have been of the opinion that each District might to make provision for its non "Chronic Incurables" where the sufferer can receive every care, food and attention and not be a source of damage to their household. I regret the war stopped the erection of the small "Hospital" you were contemplating building for that purpose.

By a sleeping shelter placed in different parts of your District, and there are suitable open spaces, would be of great benefit both to the patients and their families. I need hardly say that Sanatorium treatment is of no use if the patient is allowed to return to the insanitary surroundings which in all probability originated or aided the disease.

OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS. - Five notifications were received two of which were under hospital treatment.

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MEASLES. - Twentyone cases were notified as against 236 last year. These occurred in sixteen different houses the majority being in "Little Island" as usual most of these cases were nursed in the living kitchen, and drastic measures will have to be taken to prevent the promiscuous visiting etc., which was mainly the cause of the disease spreading.

INFLUENZA. - There was a severe epidemic throughout the District in October and November, adults etc., mostly affected.

Eighteen cases proved fatal - the majority from respiratory complications - equivalent to a death-rate of 2.34 per 1000, comparing most favourably with surrounding areas.

Socials, Sunday Schools and Cinemas were stopped but for reasons stated to your Sanitary Committee I did not recommend the closing of the Day Schools. It is now generally held by most Sanitary Authorities and School Medical Officers that schools should be kept open as long as possible and closed only when a shortage of staff renders that inevitable. My thanks are due to the school officials for their assistance in sending me lists of attendances etc.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (EXTENSION) ACT. - One hundred and fifty-two notifications were received (75 males 77 females) three of which (all females) were illegitimate. Pamphlets re the feeding and rearing of infants were as formerly posted to each case.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, etc., have been kept under supervision and few, if any, alterations or improvements have been made. There are not so many cattle now kept in the District.

WATER SUPPLY. - has been in every way satisfactory.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS. - No improvements of any note have been made in the District, in a measure no doubt due to the scarcity of labour etc., coupled with the high prices of materials.

Houses are urgently needed in every part of the township - (some two or three hundred at least) and this matter is having, I believe, your immediate attention.

The Scavenging is done far from satisfactorily, being still in the hands of Contractors.

A large number of nuisances mostly of a minor character have been remedied and it was only necessary to send ten Statutory Notices.

General areas in different parts of your District, one in an unsatisfactory condition and improvements might now be insisted upon.

I am,

Yours obediently,

ed. JWC. HOLT MARSH

Medical Officer of Health.

